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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 PM-07 SCI-06 COME-00 DODE-00

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---------- 037816
R 051639Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, BF
SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OF RESEARCH SUBMERSIBLE IN GOBI WATERS

1. WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION HAS ASKED THE DEPT TO OBTAIN GOBI ASSENT TO PROPOSED PROGRAM OF TESTING AND TRAINING INVOLVING THE 3 MAN RESEARCH SUBMERSIBLE ALVIN, AND HER SUPPORT VESSEL LULU. THE OPERATION CALLS FOR A SERIES OF TEST DIVES OF INCREASING DEPTH DOWN TO 10,000 FEET. TWO AREAS HAVE BEEN SELECTED: FIRST IS NE PROVIDENCE CHANNEL VICINITY NASSAU; SECOND, TONGUE OF THE OCEAN NEAR FRESH CREEK, ANDROS IS. BAHAMAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF EASILY REACHED DEEP PROTECTED WATERS. DIVES WILL BE SCHEDULED--AS TEST RESULTS AND WEATHER/SEA STATE CONDITIONS PERMIT--DURING THREE PERIODS:

26 NOVEMBER THRU 8 DECEMBER 73
14 JANUARY THRU 1 FEBRUARY 74
11 FEBRUARY THRU 1 MARCH

PROJECT HAS TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES. FIRST IS TO THOROUGHLY
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CHECK OUT THE ALVIN, RECENTLY READY AFTER ONE YEAR OF

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EXTENSIVE OVERHAUL AND MODIFICATION. SECOND IS TO TRAIN GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS WHO WILL UTILIZE ALVIN FOR THE FRENCH AMERICAN MID OCEAN UNDERSEA STUDY (FAMOUS) SCHEDULED FOR JUNE THRU AUGUST 1974.

2. MASTER OF 450 TON, 96 FT LULU IS DALE BUTLER, WITH CREW OF 9. TOTAL COMPLEMENT WILL BE ABOUT 35, CONSISTING OF MOSTLY SUB PILOTS, TECHNICIANS, AND OBSERVER TRAINEES. PROJECT MANAGER IS LARRY SHUMAKER. ALTHOUGH BOTH LULU AND ALVIN NOMINALLY US NAVY OWNED, THEY ARE MAINTAINED AND STAFFED BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF WOODS HOLE AND ARE TO BE CONSIDERED HERE AS PRIVATELY OPERATED VESSELS. THE LULU WILL CARRY ONE GOBI OBSERVER IF ASKED. ROUTINE BAHAMA CALLS WILL BE MADE FOR FUEL, REST, ETC, BUT PORTS AND DATES NOT PRESENTLY FIXED. DEPT TO SUPPLY FURTHER INFO AS DETAILS BECOME FIRM.

3. POST SHOULD GET GOBI AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED PROGRAM. MUCH OF PROGRAM WILL BE DEEP WATER OUTSIDE 3 MI, BUT INITIAL SHALLOW DIVES WILL BE INSIDE 3 MI. TESTING AND TRAINING NATURE SHOULD BE STRESSED. THIS IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS A REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN GOBI WATERS. RUSH

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